MONTEREY NEWS

December 2008
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The Town

Highway Concerns

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that the town has spent $14,800 this year to date on repairs on Fairview Road, which historically has washed out periodically into the catch basins and streams. The Board agreed that the problem wasn't going to be solved overnight, and an open meeting was set up with the Select Committee, Maynard Forbes, and the concerned homeowners at the Montgomery's lower driveway on Thursday, October 30, to address the immediate problem. Forbes said that the cost to fix the initial drainage problem would be about $32,000.

Larry Klein attended the next Select Board meeting, because he had missed the notice of the October 30th meeting. His main concern is that the road is dangerous, and that paving it would make it more so. He also requested that abutters be notified about any meetings concerning Fairview Road. At another Select Board meeting Klein requested that "blind driveway" signs be placed at the end of his driveway because it is dangerous to exit his driveway. The board decided to place small signs at the requested area.

In other matters, Forbes reported that a highway truck was parked on Harmon

Icelandic horses at Roberts Woods Farm, which recently won a Massachusetts Farm Burteau Award (see p. 6).

Road with its flashing lights on when a car ascended the hill, tried to go around the truck, and drove off the road and got stuck. Also, around twenty or thirty yards of gravel were brought to the town beach. And the elevator at Town Hall needed to be reset.

Jon Sylbert said there is a hole by the bridge on Carrington-Battelle Road that leads to a very steep drop and asked that the highway crew fill in the hole.

Lake Garfield Survey

The Select Board had a final meeting with Foresight Land Services regarding the survey of the town beach and surrounding properties. This extensive study will next be reviewed and discussed by the town counsel and Foresight.

Planning Board

Cynthia Hoogs informed the Select Board of John Sellew's resignation from the Planning Board. She said that the secretary of the Planning Board, Bridget Krans, is interested in acting as an appointed Planning Board member to fill Sellew's vacancy, while continuing in her position as the Planning Board's paid secretary. The Ethics Commission said that if the Select Board designates the Planning Board as special municipal employees, then Bridget can fill both positions. Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard will be consulted on how to do this.

The Planning Board is holding a public hearing on December 11 to discuss the proposed amendments to driveway bylaws. A special town meeting will need to be held within six months, and Hoogs requested the meeting be held in March. Jon Sylbert requested that this meeting be closed to any warrant items having to do with appropriations.

Cynthia was asked about the Planning Board minutes that need to go on the town website, and said that they were on audiotape but have not been transcribed. The Select Board suggested that the Planning Board secretary transcribe them using a tape recorder available from Town Hall. Cynthia said that they have had problems obtaining a quorum for their bimonthly meetings. The Select Board then discussed the possibility of shrinking the Planning Board from seven members to five; then three would make a quorum. The Board will consult town counsel on how to do this.

Legal Matters

Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard was asked whether errors/typos in town bylaws can be amended without calling a town meeting. Pollard said there is a statute that allows these changes to be made without a town meeting vote.

Pollard was also to be consulted regarding the fine imposed on Kutsher's Sports Academy for operating two children's camps without the proper permits. Because the camp did not pay the fine by the deadline given, the Select Board set up a meeting with Pollard to discuss further options. Health Agent Peter Kolodzeij will detail all the violations and fines which resulted in the $5,000 fine.

The Select Board received a letter from Brown Oil stating that we hadn't signed the price lock-in letter for the town fuel oil contract. Pollard said that the terms should have been stated in the letter before the Select Board signed it. Maynard Forbes will follow up.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus brought the Select Board a copy of a letter to be signed that enters Monterey into a local hazardous mitigation plan, which will require the town to match $1500 unless town personnel collect necessary data, in which case the amount will be less. This is a federal requirement. The town must also commit to forming a committee. The board voted unanimously to do so, and it was agreed to put a request for the money required on the May annual town

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meeting warrant, because it will be due July 1, 2009.

The board requested more police presence on Fairview Road, where many speeding complaints have come in.

Chief Backhaus reported that the following items had been addressed:

- Three incidents of speeding, one accident on Fairview Road.
- Deer hit by a car on Route 57 had to be put down.
- Report of an open garage door; owner reported no items were missing.
- False alarm, Main Road.
- Well-being check, Hupi Road.
- Domestic call on Pixley Road; this is an ongoing situation. The person was later arrested in Great Barrington for DUI. Monterey will issue a summons for damage done to the complainant's home during the domestic call.
- Complaint of stolen political signs.
- Dog complaint; police responded when Animal Control Officer couldn't be reached. The Animal Control Officer followed up. The Animal Control Officer was also informed that another dog had been picked up earlier and taken to Bilmar Small Animal Clinic; the dog is no longer wanted by owner, and the vets are looking for a new home for it.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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Undermountain Elementary U-12 Champions of the Columbus Day weekend "Just for Kicks" tournament in Dalton. First Row: Assistant Coach David Collopy, Gavin Ziegler, Sam Hess, Jacob Malicky, Alexander Valentini, Chris Whitbeck, Dan Driscoll, Nick Tomich, Cooper Ronan, Coach Chris Tomich. Second Row: Kosta Casivant, Mark Driscoll, Vaughn Collopy, David Ibanez, Bradley Lupiani, Rawson Clough, Trevor Turner. Not shown: Adam Dertwitsch, David Funk, Anthony Consolini, and Matthew Moorehouse.

Edith Wilson Artwork

As requested by the Select Board, Gige O'Connell presented an inventory of artwork, antiques, and other items that were bequeathed to the town by Edith Wilson. Lou Sheffey has five Oriental rugs in his house and some Edith Wilson paintings in his barn. Lou requested strongly that an alternate storage space be found for these items.

There are eight Edith Wilson paintings in the Town Hall. A set of Canton china is on loan to the Bidwell House, and a set of Rose Medallion china is with the Monterey Historical Society.

Gige left a copy of the inventory with the Select Board, which will research having an appraisal of the artwork, and making sure everything is adequately insured and properly stored.

This and That

Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe reminded all town boards and committees that they must keep minutes of their meetings, which must be available on request. This is required by the Open Meeting Law Guidelines, and a complaint may be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth if this is not done. >

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Noe agreed to check with Hampshire Power regarding purchasing electricity at a group business rate.

The new school committee met and discussed the DESE grant.

Michael Storch, Finance Committee member, said that the Finance Committee meeting on October 6 was not properly posted (48 hours before the meeting). The Town Clerk advised that the Finance Committee's guidelines were less stringent than other boards and committees. Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard said that this is not true, that the Finance Committee has no special exceptions, and that questions of this type should be answered by him, not the Town Clerk.

A resident left a message on voicemail protesting the Obama/Biden sign on the intersection of Routes 57 and 23, which is town property.

The Select Board interviewed Eric Pedersen, Richard Piepho, and Anne-Marie Enoch for the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate position. Applicants were given the opportunity to explain why they are interested and were given a job description. The board is hoping to make a decision by the end of November after any other interested parties have a chance to inquire.

The Select Board decided not to respond to the Town Clerk's letter in the November *Monterey News*.

— Sue Protheroe

Veterans' Day in Monterey

About forty people gathered at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day day of the eleventh month on the steps of the Monterey Church to honor veterans. Master of Ceremonies Dean Amidon led a service of remembrance, Steve Pullen gave a prayer honoring service, and George Emmons rang the church bell eleven times. Several veterans spoke extemporaneously about their hope for an end to war. The ceremony was closed with taps movingly played by Gabriella Makuc.

Veterans Day Prayer: November 11, 2008

We come to you O God, by many paths and know you by many names.

We see your presence all around us in the wonder of all living things.

Today we are filled with gratitude and hope for all humankind.

We are grateful for the unique willingness of people to serve one another, serving family, friends, community, and country in many ways. This desire to serve is clearly part of your great plan for us.

Today we gather specifically to honor the sacrifice and service of veterans of all wars. We especially pray for those in harm's way in two wars at this very moment in time.

We also honor our mothers who, after nurturing and instilling their children with appreciation for life, saw them leave for war. Many, too many, of those children did not return.Comfort them in their grief. Teach us to listen more closely to them so we can always know the immeasurable value of every life before placing it in harm's way.

We pray for veterans suffering from mental and physical wounds long after they have left the conflict. Grant them your comforting light and your gift of healing.

Guide the leaders of all nations of the world to have the patience and wisdom necessary to pursue peaceful solutions to conflicts between nations.

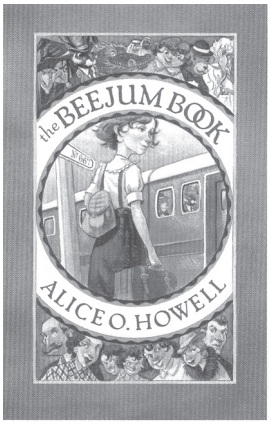
Finally, we pray the prayer on the lips of every veteran who ever saw the tragic horror of blood spilled and lives lost. We know this prayer was spoken by our grandfathers and fathers and, yes, now by our sons and grandsons. Today we pray it once more: that no future generation ever has to witness the horror of war again.May all people everywhere know that war is still the greatest tragedy of human history.

We praise you and thank you for your loving spirit that we see in each other's eyes today.

Amen.

— Steve Pullen

These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make perfect Christmas gifts!



The Beejum Book will take its place with ***The Little Princess*** and ***Charlotte's Web*** as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey, author of ***The Direct Path***

Lara's First Christmas is a universal story that will open and enlighten every heart.

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Our beloved, one-of-a-kind, best-of-the-Berkshires, completely charming, darling General Store … what would we ever do without it? It adds to the quality of our lives. It adds to the value of our homes. While so many bucolic Berkshire general stores have already gone under, Monterey's General Store is desperately trying to keep its head above water.

Proprietor Kenn Basler does a masterful job of running the store and bringing music/culture/events to the community. At this moment Kenn urgently needs our help! Because of the oppressive economic climate, Kenn now faces "the perfect storm" scenario: Income is down dramatically (12 percent vs. last year) and expenses are up relentlessly (15 percent vs. last year). A recent energy audit pointed to the possibility of substantial cost-savings through the purchase of new equipment, but that takes $$$ ($25,000 to $35,000)! Currently, the ancient equipment devours pricey gas and electricity to the tune of $1,800 a month. Recently, Kenn replaced one such energy-guzzler and saved $300 a month on electric bills. The good news is that new equipment—coolers, hot water heating system, ovens—would pay for itself in less than three years.

In past years, Kenn maintained a $50,000 line of credit, borrowing $20,000–$25,000 over the winter months when sales are down and repaying the loan during the summer months when sales are up. These days, bank loans are near impossible to procure—and even if you can lasso a loan, the interest rates are obscene.

Our general store must stay afloat. We're not being altruistic; our goal is selfish—to save our general store because it is the very heartbeat of our community.

Glynis Oliver

No traffic at General Store means wintertime blues for Kenn.

We now have a plan! After collecting ideas from Kenn and the community, we've hammered out a potential solution to the problem. There are two parts. We are suggesting the following:

1) Individuals offer the store an interest-free loan, to be paid back in thirds after three, four, and five years. The loan would be in writing and secured by Kenn's integrity (which is flawless, of course)! The hope is that the economy does not totally tank. Loans would be in denominations of $1,000. (Several people have already stepped up and signed up to give more than $1,000.)

2) Individuals purchase scrip from the General Store to be used at any time. For each $95 one would receive $100 worth of General Store money. This would give Kenn immediate working capital—and give you a 5% discount on all your purchases. Importantly, this will encourage the community to shop more at the store, an essential ingredient in insuring the store's success and longevity. (So, get out there and shop!) And please pass this message on to your friends and neighbors.

If you wish to offer an interest-free loan or purchase scrip, you can send checks to Monterey General Store, Box 43, Monterey, MA 01245. Be sure to include your name and mailing address.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email: Hy & Myrna Rosen, hytime@ix.netcom.com, 917-868-5158; or David & Sylvia Shifrin, mikejosh18@aol.com, 561-479-2653.

— Hy Rosen

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Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

Roberts Woods Farm Wins Top Farm Bureau Honors

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) recently honored thirty-seven horse farms and stables with the designation of "2009 Horse Farm of Distinction," and Roberts Woods Farm of Monterey was one of the select group that earned the award.

Roberts Woods is a not-for-profit Icelandic horse farm owned by Marc and Kathryn Roberts and located on Art School Road. The stables' horses are used for all disciplines of lessons, Beartown State Forest excursions, and, most proudly, for its Therapeutic Riding Program under the direction of Esther Heffernan. Beth Timlege, Certified NAHRA Instructor (North American Handicapped Riding Association) and supervisor of animal research at Tufts University, works with students with a variety of special needs.

The program is supported by the generosity of the Roberts family as well as the support of many members of the community, in the form of donations and volunteering. Recently donations and loans from Friends of Roberts Woods allowed the acquisition of a saddle especially made for our riders. Also opportunities abound for side walkers, horse groomers and leaders, computer experts, fundraisers, even cake bakers. (Call Esther at 413-644-9235 for more information.)

In announcing the 2009 honorees, MFBF President Alex Dowse of Sherborn called the thirty-seven farms selected "the cream of the crop" and added, "These farms present to the public a safe and professional image. They truly showcase the horse world in Massachusetts for the public."

The 6,000-member Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation represents farmers involved in all facets of agriculture. The "Horse Farm of Distinction" program was begun in 1990 to recognize and present to the public those horse farms and stables that set high standards and achieve a level of excellence in overall horse health, farm management, and compliance with public safety.

Judging for new applicants was conducted at each farm or stable by teams of horse-industry professionals along with representatives of the Farm Bureau's Equine Advisory Committee. Staff members from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources, Farm Family Insurance Company, and Farm Bureau affiliates served on each team. Repeat farms like Roberts Woods were judged by a single judge.

The award reflects the high standard of life in Monterey

— Esther Heffernan

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Friends of Monterey Library Being Explored

Attention all Monterey Library Patrons! A small core group is currently forming to explore the creation of a "Friends of the Monterey Library Association." Friends groups exist to support the library in a myriad of ways, including but not limited to: fundraising, volunteer coordination, book sale help ... you get the idea. This group would work with the Board of Trustees and the library staff to strengthen and enhance the library. Individual libraries in all fifty states have friends groups, and there is even a national friends of the library group! To learn more about the role that a friends group can play, you can read about it at www.folusa.org. If you are interested in working with the small core organizing group for the Monterey Library, please contact Franny Huberman at 413-528-5414 or frannyhuberman@hotmail.com, or Mari Enoch at 413-644-9825, or sign up at the library circulation desk.

— Franny Huberman

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Affordable Housing in Monterey

The November 19th Community Dinner program featured Monterey's Affordable Housing Committee and its advisors, Cara Davis, Executive Director of Construct, and Tim Geller, Executive Director of the Community Development Corporation of the Southern Berkshires. Both Davis and Geller have long histories in housing issues in the southern Berkshires.

Kyp Wasiuk, chairman of the Monterey Affordable Housing Committee, opened the presentation by introducing the committee members who were present: Laury Epstein, Liz Goodman, and Tim Lovett. Monica Webb was unable to attend. Kyp noted that this meeting represented a "seed planting" for future action in affordable housing in town. "We need ideas and thoughts from the community," she said, "and that's why we're grateful to Kyle Pierce and Barbara Dahlman for inviting us tonight."

Putting the affordability issue in perspective, Stan Ross, member of the Monterey Board of Assessors, said that according to his office's records, the average price of a home in Monterey is $495,000. Tim Lovett, a committee member and active realtor, said that realtors' figures indicate that the average home price in Monterey is $550,000, making us second only to Richmond in average house values. Whoever has the correct figures for average prices, Monterey is a mighty expensive place to buy now, making affordable housing all the more important.

But what is "affordable housing"? First off, it is not rental housing. Affordable housing in Monterey will consist of homes for sale to qualified buyers. A qualified buyer's income ranges from $41,450 (one-person household) to $59,200 (four-person household). The limits on the purchase price for appropriate units in Monterey would be from $131,000 (one-bedroom unit) to $203,000 (four-bedroom unit). As Tim Geller pointed out, it costs more to build these units than qualified buyers can pay, and that's where development subsidies from state and federal sources kick in.

Tim Lovett also noted that local banks want to lend to local homebuyers, and they have been appreciative of community efforts to initiate affordable housing.

Almost everyone in attendance asked questions of the committee and its experts. Can the affordable housing be assessed at a lower tax rate? (We'll have to find out.) Where would the affordable housing be? (Good question, but too early to answer.) Would the affordable housing be single family, condos, or what? (Another good but as of yet unanswerable question.) How many units does Monterey have to provide? (Ultimately about 50 but starting out with even just a few is good.) How do the affordable properties remain affordable? (Short answer is deed restrictions.)

The Monterey affordable housing committee was asked to look into the Forest Row project in Great Barrington, which is based on a community land trust arrangement. The committee also was advised to learn more about how Lenox is developing affordable housing. The latter is an example of community-supported affordable housing. Tim Geller noted that it is not uncommon for nonprofit affordable housing groups to initiate a "friendly 40B" in cooperation with the town to create amenable conditions for projects. For those not familiar with governmentese, "40B" is a chapter of the General Laws of Massachusetts that presents a carrot-and-stick approach to entice developers to build low and moderate income housing by waiving local rules and regulations for zoning and other local concerns.

Co-Housing, a communal housing concept, was mentioned as a possible model, as was an EcoVillage.

Attendees at the community dinner evinced much interest in and support of affordable housing in Monterey. Everyone is encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee on Wednesday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. And on my way out, Kyle Pierce suggested that we do another presentation at a community dinner, perhaps in May. So please stay tuned for exciting developments.

— Laurily Epstein

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Broadband Report: Public Meeting in Monterey Dec. 9

As was reported in the September *Monterey News,* two members of Monterey's broadband committee, Michael Storch and Monica Webb, have joined the Southern Berkshire Technology Committee (SBTC). The SBTC is a community-led group formed to expedite the deployment of modern broadband infrastructure to local rural communities. The group came together because broadband committees from the various local towns felt that efforts were being duplicated and that more could be accomplished as a consortium, which now includes eleven southern Berkshire towns.

The SBTC believes that broadband access is an absolute requirement for economic development, education, communications, health and safety, and quality of life in our towns – and that its deployment is the contemporary equivalent of rural electrification and telephone initiatives of the past.

Currently affordable, high-speed broadband service is available in urban areas, where it is profitable for companies to install and deliver. Governments and rural communities worldwide are recognizing that this "digital divide" deprives rural residents of a service essential in today's world, and initiatives to bridge the divide are being undertaken. On July 28, a broadband bill was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature, and signed by Governor Patrick on August 4, that designates $40 million for investment in broadband infrastructure in the Commonwealth to support deployment of affordable broadband and ubiquitous access to unserved citizens. The SBTC is working to ensure that a viable, future-proof broadband infrastructure is built here, and pledges to work with the state and local towns on permitting, zoning, and other necessary approvals to ensure the rapid deployment of modern broadband.

The SBTC's first mission is to field a local candidate to the board of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which will be overseeing the broadband build-out. Board members are appointed by Governor Patrick. The committee has put forward Brian Killeen, the acting Executive Director of the South Berkshire Chamber of Commerce.

The SBTC has been officially endorsed by the Select Boards of Great Barrington, Alford, Egremont, Monterey, Mt. Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, Sheffield, and Tyringham. The group includes representatives from the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce and broadband committees that were formed in towns across our region to address the discrimination against rural communities with regard to high-speed Internet access. The members of the committee represent a cross-section of our communities: technology experts, professionals, educators, small business owners, retirees, families, and concerned citizens.

The SBTC is holding weekly meetings throughout its member towns. **There will be a meeting at the Monterey Town Hall on Tuesday, December 9, at 7 p.m.** It is a regular meeting of the committee, which residents of Monterey are invited to attend, hear about the committee's efforts and ask questions.

We do want to address the issue of DSL in Monterey. We are no longer lobbying Verizon for more DSL because it is an outmoded technology that requires significant upgrades to the wiring infrastructure to deliver. We want any further broadband investment to go to fiber-based technology, which is vastly superior and will position our community for the future, allowing our students, businesspeople, and citizens to operate on a level playing field with the rest of the world. To provide more background on the DSL vs. fiber debate, below is an excerpt from a letter to the *Berkshire Eagle* from Charles Flynn, the Chairman of the SBTC. The letter appeared as an op-ed on September 7, 2008.

Over the past five years a number of rural Berkshire communities have requested DSL service from Verizon with no response. Last fall legislation was introduced by Governor Patrick in the form of a broadband bill that would leverage public funding with public-private partnerships to support the build-out of a modern broadband infrastructure for unserved and underserved rural areas. At the prospective bill's standing-room-only, five-hour hearing last February, it became clear the legislation had widespread support and would pass—which it did recently, with an additional $15 million added, bringing the total public funding to $40 million.

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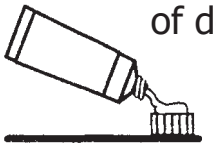

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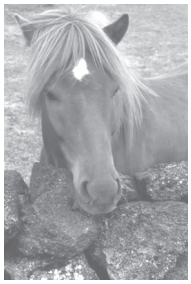
Route 23 Monterey

ROBERTS WOODS FARM
Icelandic Horses



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However, the state made it clear this bill would only invest in ***future-proof*** *broadband technology, which does not include DSL. Only a couple of weeks after the hearing, Verizon announced that they would be expanding their DSL coverage in 23 communities in Berkshire County. It is extremely important to note that Verizon is replacing DSL in urban areas with a fiber-based network called FIOS, while expanding DSL in rural Western Massachusetts.*

But why should people care about speeds faster than DSL? Voice and bandwidth-intensive applications such as streaming and interactive video, educational applications, peer-to-peer file transfer, music and video downloads, and file sharing are redefining the Internet. Additionally, wireless devices such as cell phones, Blackberrys and gaming accessories provide consumers ever-increasing access to the Internet, exponentially accelerating consumption of Internet bandwidth. Bandwidth capacity is the critical factor that will affect usage of the Internet in the years to come.

If that's not enough, take a look at what the rest of the world is doing. Fiber networks are replacing copper-based networks globally and throughout heavily populated parts of the U.S. In rural areas where the phone and cable companies don't deem it profitable enough to invest in fiber infrastructure, communities are taking the development of fiber networks into their own hands, and governments are subsidizing and otherwise enabling them. In Canada, for example, the phone company must allow competitors (and even some customers) to install fiber on its poles or rights of way. According to David Isenberg, of Fortune *magazine, "****Such places have determined that plentiful bandwidth is as critical to their economy as running water, sewers, roads, and electricity****." We need to be thinking this way here in Berkshire County.*

A great example closer to home was the reaction of technology-savvy residents of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine to the proposed sale of Verizon's 1.3 million landlines in their states to FairPoint Communications. One of the conditions of the sale was that FairPoint promised to invest $40 million to expand DSL service in those states. Residents' greatest concern was that this would make it extremely unlikely there would be any building in rural New England of fiber optic networks. The Boston-based Phoenix *newspaper published a thorough examination of the transaction, stating,*

"The trouble with this debate is that DSL is the wrong topic. We should be talking about fiber-optic technology, which transfers data over laser beams through glass wires. Because fiber-optic lines are capable of handling telephone, Internet, television, and other communications of the future, fiber optics is widely accepted as the immediate future of high-speed Internet connections…. Whether the $2.7-billion Verizon-FairPoint deal goes through or not, the problem is that our state officials haven't noticed that DSL is the wave of the past."

In the wake of the sale announcement, widespread opposition was voiced, and many regions banded together to develop their own fiber-based networks. Clearly FairPoint got the message. On July 28, they announced they were building a fiber-based core network across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that would include a $56-million investment in fiber-based broadband infrastructure in New Hampshire alone.

A fiber-based infrastructure is infinitely faster, scalable, requires less energy for operation, and is more secure and reliable than DSL. But more importantly, it allows our businesses, students and citizens to operate on a level playing field with the rest of the world—now, AND in the future. We are asking citizens and the media to join us in advocating for future-proof technology here in the Berkshires—and not to settle for Verizon's second hand scraps.

For more information and updates on the work of the South Berkshire Technology Committee, please refer to the web site at www.southberkshiretech.org.

— Monica Webb

Yoga Within

Connie Wilson
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Dec. Community Dinner: Finding Family Roots

The Monterey Affordable Housing Committee gave an informative presentation at the November Potluck on what they've learned so far about affordable housing as it relates to Monterey—lots of rules and regulations that need to be followed to start this process. The large group of townspeople attending had many interesting questions and points of view. There will be another meeting of the Committee at the Meetinghouse on January 14 at 7 p.m., open to all.

The December Monterey Community Dinner lecture, "Digging Deeper: Finding Our Family Roots," will provide insight into sources for discovering the names of ancestors on the family tree. Keren Weiner, a Monterey genealogist, will use a case study following the migration of one Jewish family from Ukraine to North America to illustrate methods of finding information in American archival repositories. While her specialty is Jewish genealogy, Keren's talk will cover a broad range of genealogical sources for use by anyone interested in searching for their family's history. There will be time for a question and answer session following her presentation.

Join us Wednesday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and silverware and a plate for yourself. All are welcome.

— Kyle Pierce

Monterey Library Notes

A big thank-you to all who donated food for the Food Pantry in November, and of course to those who brought back some well overdue books. We don't bite when those books come back—usually we're just glad to see them. For those of you who don't know, books taken out from any CWMARS library, Great Barrington, Sheffield, Pittsfield, Lenox, and many more, can be returned here. The WMRLS delivery truck is here twice a week to take them back to the owning library if no one else in the system has a hold on that particular item. As soon as the book is checked in, which is when we're normally open, your account is clear.

The Library, with the cooperation of the Monterey Meetinghouse, is sponsoring a gingerbread house demonstration and craft session for kids of all ages. Sue Caine of Monterey will be talking about and showing how to do this traditional holiday decorative craft on Sunday, December 14, at 2 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement (we won't have to worry about the carpet if the little ones slip). It would be great to have an idea of how many kids will want to build their own house so we can be sure to accommodate everyone, so please register for this by emailingmontereylibrary@gmail.com, leaving a message on the answering machine at 413-528-3795, or coming in to the library during open hours. Sue helped us out this summer for one of our Saturday children's program and comes well prepared to bring out some of our children's creativity.

— Mark Mkuc, Library Director

Enter the Friends of Lake Garfield Photo Contest

Win an all-expense paid trip around the world … or around Lake Garfield (Judge's decision). For many years the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) printed a poster to the delight of many Montereyans. The first one, back in 2001, was Janet Cathcart's picturesque panorama of great Lake Garfield on a glorious fall day. Richard Edelstein's aesthetic eye found an exquisite early morning moment on Garfield that became FLG's 2002 poster. 2003 saw the renowned Jean Germain catch a magical image of fisherman in the mist. In 2004, Judy Bach's big bird, that handsome heron we all adore, actually waited until she could run next door to borrow a camera to make him a star. And in 2005 Edie Ross transformed an ordinary beach scene into an extraordinary techno extravaganza.

Five formidable posters … and then there were none. From 2006 through 2008, to the dismay of loyal collectors, the posters ceased. A photo famine descended upon Garfield, ending an era of artful images.

But, posters shall rise again. For one for 2009, we now announce the FLG Photo Contest. The winner will hang in homes all around Monterey. (Gulp!) So comb your photo files for award-winning glimpses of Garfield. Carry your camera at all times—shoot your brains out.

Please send all entries to lldesigns1@hotmail.com. And hurry! All of Monterey is waiting with eager eyes.

— Hy Rosen

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Bidwell Early Christmas Party Dec. 13

A magical moment in Monterey is promised for supporters, friends, and visitors of the Bidwell House Museum as an Early New England Christmas party is planned for Saturday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the 1750 colonial parsonage of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell.

In recognition of the long presence of other families who lived in the house, for example, the three generations of Carringtons, the house will be transformed into a Currier and Ives Christmas card to celebrate the arrival of winter, thanksgiving, and hope for the coming New Year. The cold night air of December will be softened as luminarias light the way from the parking lot along the pathway to the house with the warmth of an Iron Kettle Bonfire in the front yard.

Traditional greenery will greet guests at the original 1750 green door with blacksmith-forged hinges. The auspicious Garden Angels will work to celebrate the simplicity of a starry night in Monterey as friends gather around three eighteenth-century fireplaces.

The Puritans did not celebrate Christmas at all, nor did they observe Advent, Lent, or other Saints' Days as they tried to reform European religious traditions. Diaries of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century colonial New Englanders are devoid of Christmas references. It was simply another austere workday. Election Day and Town Meeting were observed and a harvest festival, which combined work with the sharing of food and drink.

Christmas traditions gained a foothold in Puritan New England and specifically in southern Berkshire County by the middle of the nineteenth century when Anglicans were well established in Great Barrington. British royal officials had always celebrated in the European manner in the urban areas, so Anglican parishes continued their unreformed liturgical traditions as they moved into the countryside. Roman Catholic immigrant Irish, arriving in the 1840s, were catalysts for change in celebration of what they considered the "Good News" for humanity, despite their impoverished livelihood.

According to Jack Larkin, historian of Old Sturbridge Village and a frequent guest lecturer at the Bidwell House, several Boston Congregational Churches started to hold Christmas services and decorate their interiors with evergreen in the early nineteenth century. Larkin says, "In Hartford, the first non-Episcopal Christmas service took place in 1823 with a sermon in the Congregational Brick Meeting House"; the local paper urged that business be suspended on that day.

Larkin notes that New York City started the commercialization of Christmas as early as the 1820s and "created the now familiar combination of a Christianity, commerce, childhood and family" season—a combination, he says, of "sentiment and consumption."

By the 1840s, gift giving, decorations, and Christmas Day visits to family and friends were common even in the countryside in most towns and villages. Through the influence of German immigrants in Pennsylvania, the decorated Christmas tree tradition took hold after its introduction there in the 1830s. The Puritans of Monterey started a tradition of greeting friends with cold cider refreshment, a practice that has been revived at the Bidwell House at the family Pumpkin Festival.

Tickets for the Early New England Party are $35 per person. Signature Hors d'oeuvres, spirits, a silent auction, wreaths and gifts will be available. Call 413-528-6888 for reservations or pick up an invitation and response card at the Monterey General Store.

— Martha Dailey

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Hunting & Fishing Licenses

The 2009 Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Stamps will be available from the Town Clerk starting December 3.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

You might remember last year's Christmas Eve service at the church. I'm now considering that one to be the First Annual of its type. It featured many prominent leaders in the community telling the five parts of the story that are traditionally told at this service of "lessons and carols." This year, at the Second Annual of its type, we're pleased to hear from the chairmen and women of five of the town boards and nonprofit boards in town—Lois Storch, chair of the library trustees; Joel Schick, chair of the cultural council; Ann Higgins, president of the *Monterey News* board; Stan Ross, vice-president of the Gould Farm board (Kyp Wasiuk, the president, will be away); and Kathryn Roberts, chair of the Bidwell House board.

Here's an update in case you don't remember last year. We lit a candle. We passed the peace. Then we heard the Christmas story while, with a wooden crèche set given to the church in memory of Mary Ward, the storyteller also acted it out—Mary saying yes to the angel Gabriel, Jesus born in a stable, shepherds and angels gathering around the manger, Magi coming from the East with strange gifts, and a reminder that God is with us. In between each of these tellings, we sang carols—"O Little Town of Bethlehem"; "Away in a Manger"; "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"; "O Come, All Ye Fathful"; and of course "Silent Night" by candlelight.

I remember last year one person who attended described it as "a gift, just a total gift." What struck me as interesting about her comment at the time was that she didn't say who was the giver and who received. Was it a gift of the church to the town? Was it a gift of these leaders to the church? Was it a gift of everyone who was there to everyone else who was there? Was it a gift of God to us all? That night I felt like the answer to all of these was "Yes."

So, we're going to do it again this year, because it seems to me, regardless of creed or class, clique or ideological camp, everyone likes a gift at Christmastime. The service will be at 7 p.m. It will last about forty minutes. We'll have mulled cider and cookies. Please come.

— Elizabeth Goodman

Give a Gift of Life

During visit by Dr. Ruth Engo, President of African Action on Aids, to Monterey last month, she met with the Monterey Meets Africa Committee to map out a plan for the next year or so. As a part of this plan, it was decided that we would focus our future efforts on the village of Ngala, located about an hour and a half from the city of Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon. The first goal that we are working toward is to provide 100 bed nets for families in Ngala. These mosquito repellent nets are an essential element in the prevention of malaria, which is a major life threat, especially to babies and those who have AIDS or are otherwise physically compromised.

To accomplish this goal, we have designed gift cards that can be purchased at the Monterey General Store (with our gratitude to Kenn Basler). For $15, you will provide one bed net for a family in Ngala, and you will receive two gift cards that can be given to anyone on your holiday gift list. These gift cards announce to the recipients, that a bed net has been given in their honor. In our culture of so much excess and luxury, we feel that this is a meaningful gift to touch the heart of young and old alike, while helping to improve the quality of life and chances for survival, for a family in a culture of stark contrast to our own.

Also, during Ruth's visit to Monterey, the committee and quilters presented her with the "Vision of a World Without AIDS Quilt." Ruth had not seen the delightful paintings that are now sewn into the quilt since she brought them, in their original form, to Monterey last year. Responding to this cross-cultural creation, Ruth has said, "As we struggled on our side of the world to ensure that the new generation of Africans does not die and is not denied the chance of visualizing, then changing, the course of their history positively, women quilters of Monterey gave their time, skills, and love to multiply our chances of success." Ruth will take a portion of the quilt with her when she returns to Cameroon in December.

If you would like more information about the gift cards or the Monterey Meets Africa Project, please contact Kathie Frome, 528-2516; Eileen Lawlor, 528-7916; or Joan MacVicar, 528-9606.

— Kathie Frome

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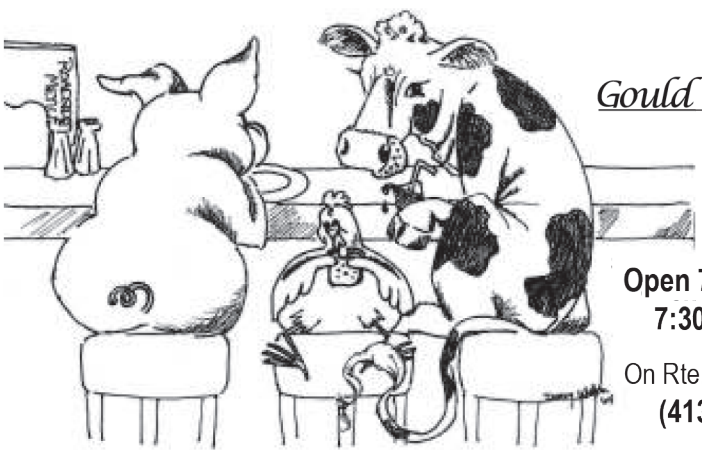

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November Sun

frosted harbinger of dark afternoons
sparkled sunlight in morning greeting
roots dreaming under foot
stoke the fire with lessons learned

I see your lips in almost smile
inhale the cork of ancient grape
I remember '82
the year we put up the road garden

bittersweet taste of old evening songs
heard deep inside by fireside
our hands were steadier
our hearts still true

familiar november walk
crunch of maple leaves
snap of poplar branch
your hand gloveless in mine

today the sun shined for a while
we looked up at her
eyes shut, seeing all
palms lifted upward in grand homage

ah, there will be a spring for sure
we'll be fatter and slower
like that 82 brunello
Let's drink it slow, my lads

— Bob Hirsch

Some New Shingles on the Wall

It isn't possible to match the stain,
for all the old ones faded over time.
They've felt the force of snow and wind and rain,
which left them dreary and bereft of shine.
The new ones in a sense build on the old,
providing sprightliness alongside age.
And yet, by dint of weathering the cold,
their forbears gained a strength through climate's rage.
Although the two sets don't exactly match
they complement each other pretty well,
for adding to the vim of the new batch
is a sense of place that tempered age can spell.
The changes I've made to this wall remind me
to value all the work that lay behind me.

— Ed Schur

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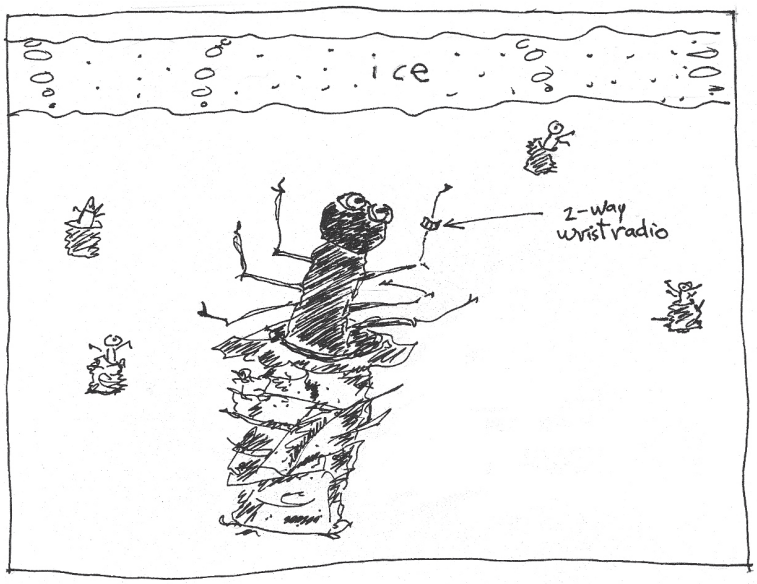
Dick Tracy Under the Ice

In the middle 1960s Dick Tracy added the "air car" to his James Bondian collection of futuristic gadgets. He'd had a wristwatch/phone for nearly thirty years, long before the secret service or Bond got hold of such things. We used to see the Tracy strip in the daily comics of the Middletown (Conn.) Press and for me it was the least appealing of the lot. Give me Pogo any day, or even Dagwood, but please spare me the tough policeman with the hatchet jaw, the urban beat, and the unbelievably horrible villains. About the only thing of interest was the gadgetry, and maybe B.O. Plenty, who had flies buzzing around his head all the time. He was good for comic relief, along with his wife Gravel Gertie and their daughter Sparkle Plenty. (All my life I have associated the little boxes of candy, Good and Plenty, with that family in the black-and-white strip.)

The air car was a good idea: a cylindrical vehicle with a propeller on top. You climbed into it and then zoomed all around "the City" looking for criminals. It went up and down, sideways, and could hover. I always assumed it was silent, so the baddies would not hear the cops coming.

Last week I went down to the swamp with a friend. The ice on the beaver pond was thick and clear, the black ice skaters love. Peering through it, my friend said, "What's that?" It looked like a bit of green leaf to me, floating in some sort of current just under the ice. I was about to suggest this when the thing changed direction, again and again. Closer scrutiny revealed the green bit was just part of an air car, or maybe a water car, about half an inch tall. The inhabitant was not the police detective of my childhood but an insect with six waving legs. Most of its vehicle was made of brown and black pieces of dead vegetation, such as stems and other particles. There was no propeller.



This was the larval stage of the caddis fly, completely aquatic and moving about in very cold water. Soon we realized there were hundreds of them under the ice where we stood. Only the one with the flashy green fragment caught the eye, the others being better camouflaged against the dark bottom of the pond. Caddis fly larvae construct their water cars using bits of material at hand: leaves, grains of sand, even bits of shell from snails and clams.

Their movement looked aimless to us, but I'm sure they had just as much purpose as Dick Tracy. Caddis fly larvae have gills and need oxygen. The longish abdomen, protected inside the casing (water car), has the gills attached and movement keeps water flowing across them, bringing more oxygen all the time. Maybe these travelers were out for a breather, leaving the bottom where they normally live and floating up to the part of the cold pond where there was more oxygen to be found. To me they looked vulnerable to predators (fish), especially

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that bright green one. But maybe when you need to breathe you take certain risks, and maybe you do so at the same time as hundreds of your fellow larvae. That way some of you will survive.

When the time comes, these larvae will settle to the bottom, withdraw into their cases, and seal off the ends. They seal them off loosely, to allow water to continue to circulate over their gills. Now they form pupae, like many other insects, and finally winged adults who chew their way out and pop to the surface to emerge and fly, mate, and lay more eggs.

The caddis flies make up the most diverse of all insect orders, the trichoptera. This means hairy (*trich*) wings (*ptera*) and refers to the tiny hairs covering the wings of the adults. When the mated female dives into the water to lay eggs, the little hairs on her wings and body hold a thin film of air around her so she can continue to breathe. The envelope of hairs acts as a gill, letting CO_2 out and O_2 from the water in. Some species are able to stay under as long as half an hour, laying their eggs.

Caddis flies were described in English entomology books as early as 1658, when they were listed as "cados worms." They may be named for "caddice men," the traveling cloth merchants of the day, who moved about the countryside with samples pinned to their coats.

Dick Tracy and the caddice men are long gone but the caddis flies are with us still. Their secret to success? Stay away from urban crime and merchandising. Live in the water and then in the air, traveling under your own steam and taking only what you need in life. If possible, be neighbors with a beaver.

— Bonner. J. McAllester

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Bartholomew's Cobble December Programs

Owl Prowl at Bartholomew's Cobble
Friday December 12, 7–9 p.m.

Whooos out there? Learn about owls' amazing ability to hunt swiftly, accurately, and silently in the dead of night. With Rene Wendell of The Trustees of Reservations, listen to owl calls and try to draw them in.

Members: Individual $4; Family $12. Nonmembers: Individual $6; Family $15. Please pre-register at 413-229-8600.

Hot Chocolate Saturdays
Saturdays December through March, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Chill out, then warm up. Climb Hurlburt's Hill, then slide, sled, ski, or trek back to the warmth of the Bartholomew's Cobble Visitors Center and enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, and hot chocolate with Trustees of Reservation staff and volunteers.

Members: Free. Nonmembers: Free with admission of $5 per adult, $1 per child.

Hike with Santa
Saturday, December 20, 10 a.m.–noon

Santa and your children will enjoy a half-mile hike at Bartholomew's Cobble, learning about nature and the wonders of winter. He will also hand out small, nature-related presents! Weather permitting, there will also be a small campfire to enjoy.

Members/Nonmembers: Adults Free; Children $10 (includes price of present). Please pre-register at 413-229-8600.

Bartholomew's Cobble is located on Weatogue Rd. in Sheffield. For information call 413-229-8600.

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Letter from College
I Choose Optimism

In my college career, it is unprecedented to have a class actually conflict with my inner emotions. In the moment, November 4th around nine in the evening, I am happy to say that my emotions did win out in the end. At times however, the political science major in me screams down from a place high atop the hill. I worry about that people will eventually feel let down as the realities of governing hit. The campaign trail is a far cry from the Oval Office. Despite these worries and concerns, I remain inspired by Barack Obama.

That being said, what do we really know about Barack Obama? We live in a country where outsiders are revered, where anyone can become president. We saw the rise of an inspiring candidate; just half a century after the Civil Rights movement we elected a black man to be president of the United States. It is a historic election especially in the context of the institution of the presidency. What does this mean about governing? Does this election mean change for Washington? My emotions beg me to believe in that flicker of hope, to kindle the flame. My overpriced education shakes a finger at that flame and stands poised to snuff it out.

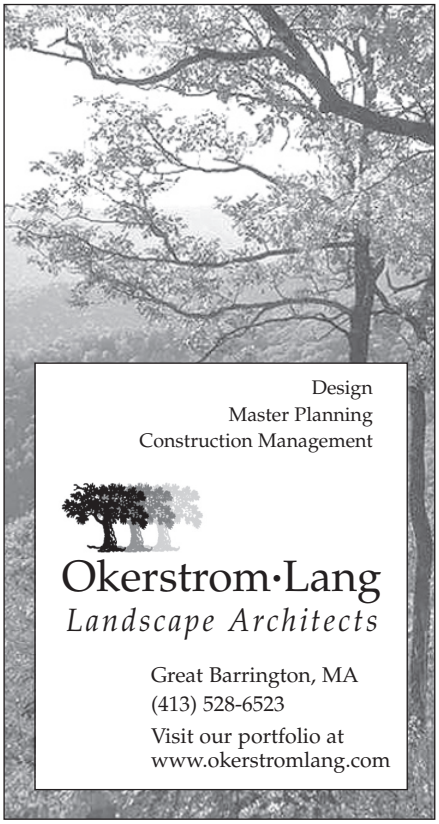
Election Night 2008 in the Middlebury Grille, our on-campus restaurant, was simply insane. We had over 200 people watching the incoming results. We also had political science professors commentating on the "science of the election," meaning that because political scientists were almost exactly right in their predictions of the popular vote, predicting election outcomes is now almost a science. Despite their levelheaded moderation, the excitement was reverberating throughout the room.

As I watched John McCain give a brilliant concession speech, I realized that I was grateful he was the other guy. I have my doubts that a new era of bipartisanship arrived that night, but I do believe that Mr. McCain will return to Washington in fine form, once again prepared to reach across the aisle. For that I applaud him. Barack Obama ran on a position of change, but any Democrat running this year was destined to win. John McCain may have been a maverick, but it was simply not a year for Republicans.

Change, yes we can. This is a powerful message, and while I have doubts about whether President-elect Obama will bring change to Washington, I do believe that Americans respond to inspirational leaders. We should not be expecting the future president to change much on his own. We can and must be the choir behind the lead singer. Washington will not change overnight; it is a political hotbed of partisanship, ideological divides, and bureaucracy. America does not exist just in Washington. There is agreement that there are serious issues; how to solve them is where the unity fractures. The true success of solutions does not come from the Capitol, even if the content does; the onus of it is on the citizens. We should be held equally responsible for the change in our communities.

Barack Obama is moving to the center, perhaps more than those who elected him as the nominee over Mrs. Clinton would like to see. It is not necessarily a bad move; he has to govern, we elected him to lead. His perspective has undoubtedly changed from the days on the campaign trail. What he said to get elected is one thing, as much as he hopes to live up to those promises; suddenly he is not a candidate, but President.

I watched the world rejoice, and felt the pride, and the inspiration. Afterward,



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while I continued to feel these emotions, I worried. I am concerned that some may have expectations of one man that are simply too high, or that they may overestimate his ability to bring the change he campaigned on. He said yes we can, and we can, but it must be on us all. I am torn personally between the hope that bubbles, and the uncertainty that drags at me. Ultimately however, I see excitement and hope all around me, and I believe that we can. Political science may caution against this, but such scientists are not sociologists, nor are they psychologists. That night, I sat surrounded by friends feeling undeniable tingles of amazement as I watched Obama accept the nomination. Despite my concerns for the future, I move toward the side of optimism, one that is so contagious even some of those who voted for the other guy grudgingly acknowledge it. I am going to be in Washington, D.C., in January, and although I may not be able to get near the Capitol, I can hardly wait to see the symbol of change swear to uphold and defend our Constitution. I was never prouder to be an American than on November 4th. What an election for the United States.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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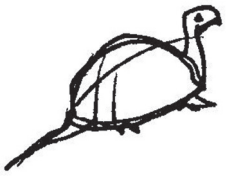
CATA Holiday Sale

Community Access to the Arts (CATA) will hold a holiday sale on Sunday, December 7, in their gallery at 70 Railroad Street in Great Barrington.

CATA produces handcrafted jewelry, accessories, and note cards in its creative employment program called CATAdirect. Employees with disabilities collaborate with community volunteers to create unique gift items out of mostly recycled materials. Products for this holiday season include necklaces and bracelets crafted of donated buttons, scarves woven from recycled cashmere sweaters, and a variety of holiday cards.

Proceeds from the sale of CATA products fund the organization's employment program. Additionally, each artist with a disability receives a design fee if his or her artwork is used to produce a printed card.

For more information, visit www.communityaccesstothearts.org, call 528-5485, or stop by the CATA boutique on the second floor of 40 Railroad Street in Great Barrington.



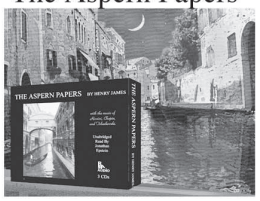
Community Singing at Dewey Hall Dec. 5

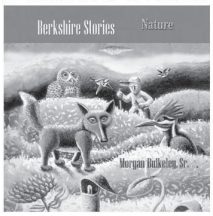
On Friday, December 5, there will be a free community singing event at Dewey Hall in the center of Sheffield from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30. Tim Eriksen will be the singing master for the evening and will lead a singing school that focuses on Shape-Note music and the Sacred Harp singing tradition. He will trace the oldest living American singing tradition back to its roots in colonial New England and at the same time teach participants to sing in the four-part harmonies of the Sacred Harp. Singers and non-singers are welcome, and potluck dishes would be appreciated.

Tim Eriksen has taught music and ethnomusicology at Dartmouth, Hampshire, and Amherst colleges and the University of Minnesota, in addition to pursuing a varied musical career that incorporates punk, Sacred Harp, and classical South Indian styles. He has sung, written, and consulted for a number of films, including the major Hollywood film *Cold Mountain*.

Please contact Alice Maggio at 347-404-4491 or amaggio@wesleyan.edu for more information.

Audio for the Refined Ear
Berkshire Media Artists

The Aspern Papers


Berkshire Stories


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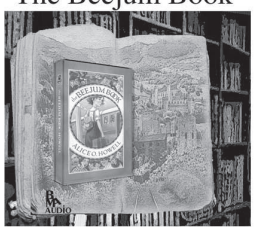

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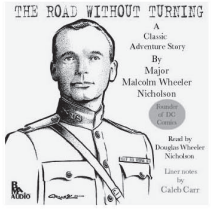

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Songs of the Season

"Tis the season" when a catchy tune can get in your head, again and again, like a broken record in your mind, perhaps out of the blue, but more likely imprinted from an early childhood Sunday School impression.

The inspiration for the lyrics of many Christmas carols had deep roots in humble human experiences. For instance, the classic "Away in a Manger" relates the story of there being no room at the inn in Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ child, a miracle of the ages. Similarly, in the "The Little Drummer Boy" a poor child wonders if the simple gift of his drum to the newborn king is worthy of the event. And the ritual of wassailing all too often meant sending poverty-stricken children out into the streets to sing from door to door, hoping for a token handout from a more fortunate household.

Yet each of these carols reflects the enlightenment of the human spirit. In the darkest of nights and times, we are lifted up by a beacon of celestial hope to soar on the wings of angels over shepherds tending their flocks in fields so deep, under a blanket woven and warped together with a myriad of crystallized snowflakes, accumulating into what we celebrate as a white Christmas.

Historically, on this continent the first Christmas carol was written in the year 1621 far to the north by a French missionary for the Huron Indians he hoped to convert. After he later was killed by another tribe, the Hurons preserved in their own tongue their favorite story of the birth of Christ, which is still told among them to this very day.

In our time, the verse of the Scottish poet Robert Burns in music form is perhaps the best known way to celebrate the new year, especially as orchestrated by Guy Lombardo, who played it first in a dance band in 1929, the year of the stock market crash which led to the Great Depression.

With this observation let me wish you a Happy New Year and, as in "Auld Lang Syne," hope that your cup of kindness is more than half full and overfloweth with blessings from above.

— George B. Emmons

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Community Health Programs (CHP) Implements Health Care Model

Community Health Programs (CHP) has been awarded a three-year contract by the Massachusetts Department of Health to implement a new health care model designed to reduce barriers to service for uninsured and underinsured individuals in south and central Berkshire County. The new program combines the Women's Health Network (WHN) and the Men's Health Partnership (MHP) Care Coordination Program into one entity to be administered by CHP.

Similar women's services were previously offered in Berkshire County by Project H.E.R.O.A. in Pittsfield. The newly funded CHP program will continue to emphasize prevention and access to preventative measures such as screenings for breast and cervical cancer; now it will also address men's health issues. Specifically, the program will employ a Program Coordinator, two Nurses and two Patient Navigators to:

- Assure underserved populations access to preventative screenings for breast, cervical, colon, and prostate cancers as well as cardiovascular disease.
- Ensure appropriate and timely access to diagnostic services.
- Provide patients access to free or low-cost treatment, when needed, for chronic diseases and conditions.
- Connect patients to primary care providers. CHP is in a unique position to connect area residents without a doctor to medical providers at its Federally Qualify healthcare facilities: the CHP Health Center at Fairview Hospital, Barrington OB/GYN in Great Barrington, and the newly acquired Neighborhood Health Center in Pittsfield.
- Refer patients to specialists if needed.
- Coordinate care for chronic diseases.
- Provide "risk reduction" education to help people avoid and/or manage chronic disease.

The WHN-NHP program focuses on comprehensive, accessible, culturally competent, and high quality care for the most vulnerable populations that comprise many of those who are uninsured and underinsured.

The program is expected to be up and running by late fall. CHP staff is currently undergoing thorough training to implement the program according to DHP guidelines.

Eligibility requirements will focus on low-income, uninsured, and underinsured adults age 40-64. Interested parties will need to apply in advance of seeking care to be eligible to participate in the program.

For more information, contact Octavio Hernandez, 413.528.9311 x2140, or email him at ohernandez@chpberkshires.org.

Otis Holiday Fair

The Kiwanis Club of Otis will have their First Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Farmington River Regional School on Route 8 in Otis. The fair is to benefit the Kiwanis Club Toys for Tots program. There will be vendors, food, music, face painting and loads of fun for everyone. Free admission; please bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program.

About CHP

CHP's mission is to provide the best quality health care possible for all the people they serve and to improve the health status of the community by doing so. The agency is built on the belief that all people should be entitled to the same high-quality health care and related services, whether they can afford to pay for care or not. CHP services over 6,000 individuals annually through the CHP Health Center; CHP WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program; CHP First Steps early intervention program; the CHP Family Network/Family Center; HCAP (Healthy Communities Access Program), a mobile outreach treatment team; Barrington OB/GYN; the CHP Dental Center; the South Berkshire Youth Coalition; the Neighborhood Health Center in Pittsfield; and the WHN/MHP Program, which connects eligible residents with screenings and care for cancer and cardiovascular disease.

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It Ain't Easy Being Green!

To the Editor:

Monterey, a beautiful town with an oversized government for approximately 1,000 residents, proclaims itself to be GREEN, citing the proud Scenic Mountain Act under which views at certain elevations cannot be obstructed. But while viewing the panoramic vistas, one who still has a normal degree of hearing will be bombarded with noise and air pollution from non-muffled industrial lawn mowers, leaf blowers, "weedy whackers," as well as flight patterns of 54 low flying airplanes over Monterey in a 3-hour time period. Add to that radio and microwaves from the 44 antennas that surround the town of Monterey (18 of them on Mt Wilcox in Beartown State Park) and we have an area that hosts pollution leakage and increased health risks.

Monterey is supposed to enjoy a barely audible ambient noise level at night (right around 20 db) and a comfortable 35-decibel level during the day, but this is not the case. Instead we are bombarded with noise and air pollution by "dirty power" and radio frequencies leaching onto the power lines causing audible and disturbing illegal pure tones 24/7.

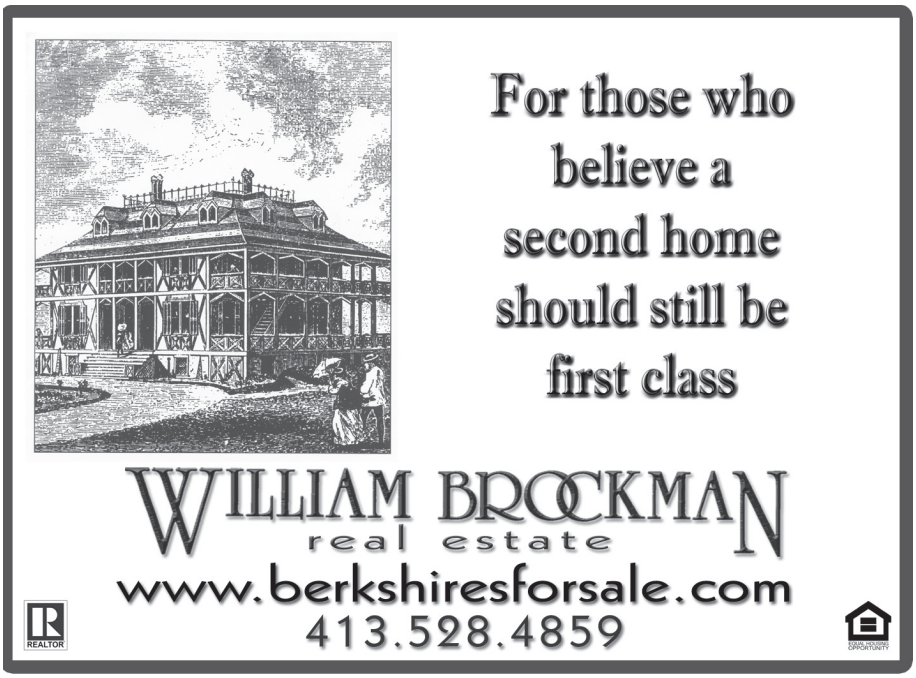
In Monterey as in other towns of the Berkshires, wireless, DSL, and broadband must now be included in the list of potential health risks, when before their installation the risks were reduced. An example of bombardment of radio waves is the fact that Monterey has no cell towers, is in the process of obtaining them, yet cell phones operate in many areas of the town "without" them. An outdated power grid contributes to the delivery of this pollution via cables that are not up to code or corroded and improperly grounded neutrals which allow stray voltage into the homes. This is why EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute) has recently proposed to study the infrastructure of the power grid and its relation to health risks.

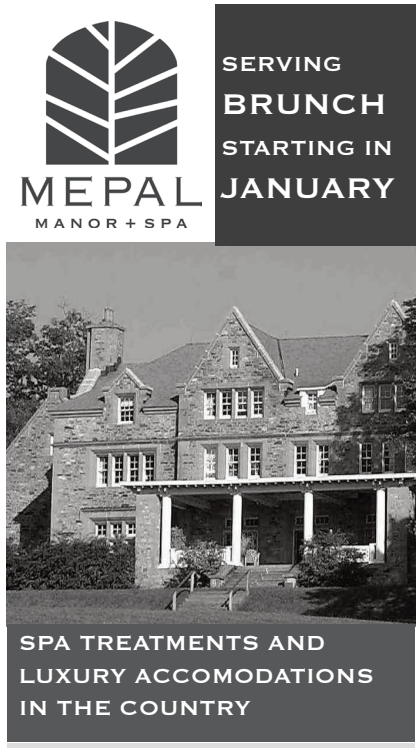
It is true that electrical science and the physics of noise and magnetic fields are complicated and not particularly easy to comprehend. However, science has begun to uncover the truth for our benefit. There are now many credible and replicable studies, from all areas of the world, describing the relationship between electricity, radiation, and illness (for example, Akerstedt, T., et al. 1999. A 50 Hz electromagnetic field impairs sleep. *J. Sleep Res* 8:77-81; Beale, Ivan L., et al. 2001. Association of health problems with 50 Hz magnetic fields in human adults living near power transmission lines, *J. Aust. Col. Of Nutr. & Env. Med*. 20(2):9-30; and many more).

There are significant scientific peer-reviewed studies indicating that noise pollution contributes to cardiovascular illness (for example, Huber, Rito, et al, 2003, Radio frequency electromagnetic field exposure in humans: estimation of SAR distribution in the brain, effects on sleep, and heart rate, *Bioelectromagnetics* 24:262-276; Neutra, R., et al., 2001, An evaluation of the possible risks from electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) from power lines, internal wiring, electrical occupations and appliances, California Department of Health Services EMF Program, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612; and many more).

Dirty power and electrical leakage has been shown to cause illness in animals as well as people. (See, for example, Burchard, Javier, et al., 2003, Effect of 10 kV/m and 30 μT, 60 Hz, electric and magnetic fields on milk production and feed intake in nonpregnant dairy cattle, *Bioelectromagnetics* 24:557-562; Calogero, S., et al., 2004, Effects of extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields exposition on circadian rythms and distribution of some leucocyte differentiation antigens in cows, Clinica di Oncoematologia Pediatrica, University di Padova, Italy, International Conference of Veterinary Clinicians, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, July 2004; and many more.)

The more electric noise and magnetic radiation is increased in our environment, the more we are exposed to the potential of longterm damage. The quality of life





for the next generation will be greatly compromised. Without appropriate impact studies with consequent safeguards and mitigation procedures, noise pollution and radiation will continue to increase dramatically, bringing with it a cavalcade of health issues.

Monterey is not green if it has no town government protecting citizens from the risks of this pollution, and if residents are not educated about the ill-effects of technology that has not been tested for health risks. Ignorance is the one thing utility companies want from us so they, along with power industries, may be left alone to steer the direction of our future well-being without the involvement of public debate. Monterey, like many towns in the Berkshires, has no updated bylaws or regulations to limit radiation or noise pollution, and no enforcement in place to protect the health and wellbeing of all citizens of Berkshire County. Meanwhile, with radiation and electromagnetic surges, brains tumors are on the rise in children. Our animals and wildlife have no voice and are also at risk.

Greening involves more than installing solar panels and composting. The responsibility of being Green is a lifestyle, not a chic concept. It is a community effort where everyone participates in preserving the well-being of everyone and the future of our children and our environment. This lifestyle is not encouraged in Monterey, despite the banners proclaiming otherwise. It is equally discouraged in many towns throughout our county. Even schools and (health-minded) Kripalu are setting poor examples by allowing Wi-Fi in their environments without first reading about or debating the health risks or demanding proper mitigation.

Our beautiful county is behind the times, while other countries and school districts are restricting the use of what they believe may be hazardous technology, including Wi-Fi, and some poorly installed power and communication delivery systems. In the UK, the prime minister is working to ban wireless from schools due to the untested technology. Meanwhile, Massachusetts has just adopted the Broadband Initiative without requesting impact studies, in order to increase broadband and wireless technology throughout the western rural areas of the state. Those who question the speed of installation prior to properly conducted impact studies to assess health risks are accused of thwarting the progress of technology. This ignorant persistence to press forward without knowing the consequences is not GREEN. It is GREED.

If we really want to call ourselves GREEN, Berkshire County towns and citizens must demand better protection from already existing pollution and waste, and hold county officials accountable. It should be our personal mission to do so for the sake of the next generation, as isn't that what Greening is all about? We should ask for advancements without risk, for technology that is tested and properly installed to prevent risk, and for updated science to keep us informed so improvements are made at a pace that keeps stride with technology.

Join "ReGreeningtheBerkshires" by writing us at AllianceForEMRprotection@gmail.com. Please visit nonoise.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to disseminating information on noise pollution, and EMR Policy Institute at emrpolicy.org, dedicated to sharing information regarding electromagnetic radiation.

— Sandra Chianfoni

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Jamie's Court Fundraising Continues

We need your help.

Several months ago a movement began to raise money to build a new basketball court in Greene Park, in addition to the existing court. The plan is to construct and donate "Jamie's Court" to the Town of Monterey in memory of Jamie Bogdanoff, a lifelong summer resident of Monterey and a regular Sunday hoopster, who died of cancer on February 29, 2008, at the age of 47. Professionally, he was a well-respected figure in television with many accomplishments, including an Emmy Award as a producer on *Good Morning America*. He was my best friend for 40 years, for which I am grateful and have been truly blessed.

Jamie was always someone who put others first. He recognized the importance of "giving back." We want to continue to "give back" to the town in Jamie's memory by having Jamie's Court available for many generations to come and enjoy. The estimated cost from start to finish, including engineering and survey fees, is $15,000. To date, we have $5,000. We need your help to complete Jamie's Court and donate it to the town by the start of summer, 2009. For additional information or to make your tax-deductible donation, please pick up a donation form at the Monterey General Store or send your donation to: Jamie's Court: a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230-1972.

For additional information, please contact Berkshire Taconic at 413-528-8039; Greg Carnese at oldlymelaw@sbcglobal.net; or Randy Gelbard at sgelbard@barringtonchem.com.

Thanks for your support!

— Greg Carnese

Thanksgiving Bowl in Monterey

The 1st Annual Monterey Thanksgiving Bowl (Super Turkey Bowl I?) kicked off Thanksgiving afternoon on a sun-dappled gridiron especially laid out for the occasion across the outfield at the Greene Park diamond. The Beartown Mt. Boys defeated the Hupi Hooligans, 35–16, before a record holiday crowd of 6 (including 3 dogs). The Boys tallied first, on an interception returned the length of the field by D. Crane, setting the tone for a wild, woolly, turnover-studded affair. The Hooligans consistently out-performed their cross-town rivals in putting together efficient, sustained drives, but were repeatedly frustrated at the goal line (2 of their points coming on one of the only recorded safeties in modern touch football history), and it took a leaping, Dwight Clark impression by Josh Allentuck to keep them in the game.

The difference was the B's smothering D, accounting for six of nine interceptions on the day, and their thinly disguised Banzai attack, from the playbook of Mgr./QB/WR/LB Steve Graves: "Everybody go out, and somebody try to get open." Records were set in every conceivable category, from Personnel (16) to Most Equipment Time Outs, One Player (2, Sam Wollman, shoelaces). Fittingly, the game ended on a pick-off as time expired.

Many thanks to one and all for making the event and establishing a new tradition.

Note: Play was temporarily halted in the second half when a Labrador retrieved one of the goal markers and wouldn't give it back.

— David Crane

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Friday, December 5: Free community Sacred Harp singing event led by Tim Eriksen, Dewey Hall Sheffield center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Potluck dinner precedes at 5:30. See p. 17.

Saturday, December 6: Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Farmington River Regional School, Route 8 in Otis. Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Otis to benefit their Toys for Tots program. Admission is new unwrapped toy. See p. 19.

Sunday, December 7: Community Access to the Arts holiday sale, 70 Railroad Street, Great Barrington. See p. 17.

Tuesday, December 9: Southern Berkshire Technology Committee Meeting, Monterey Town Hall, 7 p.m. Public is invited to learn about status of broadband Internet access. See p. 8.

Thursday, December 11:

Planning Board Public Hearing to discuss proposed amendments to driveway bylaws, 7 p.m., Town Hall.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 p.m.

Friday, December 12: Owl Prowl at Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, 7–9 p.m. See p. 15.

Saturday, December 13:

Early New England Christmas party, 4–7 p.m., Bidwell House Museum. $35 per person. See p. 11.

Lecture on "Loving and Working" by psychologist M. Gerard Fromm, Ph.D., 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge. $25. Information, 413-298-4773. See this page.

Sunday, December 14: Gingerbread House Demonstration and Workshop for children, 2 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. See p. 10.

Tuesday, December 16: CHP Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m., Town Hall.

Wednesday, December 17: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program "Finding Our Family Roots" by genealogist Keren Weiner. See p. 10.

Saturday, December 20: Hike with Santa, Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, 10 a.m.–noon. See p. 15.

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m., Church. See p. 12.

Friday, December 26: Concert, Local Musicians, 7 p.m., Meetinghouse. $15. See ad, p. 2.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing. We know you receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

Alyssa Gelbard
Donna Brallier-Lincoln

The Observer
October 26 – November 25

High temp. (11/15)	63°
Low temp. (11/22)	11°
Avg. high temp.	44.1°
Avg. low temp.	29.5°
Avg. temp.	36.8°
Total precipitation, on 21 days (rain and melted snow)	4.44 in.
Snowfall	3.6 in.

Dec 13 Lecture on Loving and Working

On Saturday, December 13, at 9:00 a.m., M. Gerard Fromm, Ph.D., will present "Loving and Working: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Organizational Life" at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge. Dr. Fromm, a psychologist and psychoanalyst and Director of the Erik Erikson Institute for Education at Austen Riggs, will sketch out a framework for understanding individual experience as it both shapes and is shaped by our work life. The fee is $20 for WMAAPP members, $25 for non-members. For more information, call Joan Burkhard at 413-298-4773.

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